

that had been lost since the 1960's. Benefits of the project have been felt by both the fish and the irrigators in the basin, whose water supply is much more stable today than it was in the 1980's.

The Umatilla Basin Project has been a product of years of debate and grassroots consensus building. I had hoped to build on that spirit this year and reach an agreement which would have allowed the fourth, and final, Umatilla Basin irrigation district, the Westland Irrigation District, to also exchange Umatilla River for Columbia River water. The potential for such an agreement to finally solve a number of remaining and long-standing water issues in the basin was very promising, and, last July, I introduced a bill to complete the project, address the Federal Government's treaty fishery obligations to the Umatilla Tribes, adjust the boundaries of the four irrigation districts to formally incorporate lands that had long been irrigated with project water, and resolve water supply concerns jointly held by the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the City of Pendleton, OR.

I commend the Umatilla Tribes, Umatilla Basin Irrigation Districts, the State of Oregon, Water Watch of Oregon and the City of Pendleton for their diligent efforts to attempt to resolve this complex and difficult array of issues. Since last April, my staff has worked virtually nonstop with all of these local interests, Congressman COOLEY, the House Resources Committee staff, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Clinton administration in an effort to forge a consensus agreement. Unfortunately, the consensus I had hoped for was not achieved. While the parties agreed on the need to construct facilities to allow the final Columbia River exchange, referred to as Phase III, and other efforts to improve the Umatilla fishery, they could not agree on the terms and timing of the irrigation district boundary adjustment.

The four irrigation districts agreed to an environmental review of their boundary adjustment proposal. They also agreed to provide significant mitigation water for fish until the year 2003, or until a substantial portion of the Phase III exchange was on line, whichever came first. They could not agree, however, to give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to act on the information obtained in connection with a National Environmental Policy Act review, which was a condition of the boundary adjustment decision. Unfortunately, this discretion was, in the eyes of the Clinton administration, an essential element of any agreement. In addition, the irrigation districts insisted that the authorization of the Columbia River exchange facilities and other facilities intended to improve the fishery be conditioned upon the satisfaction of their boundary adjustment request. At this late date in the con-

gressional session, these differences of opinion proved to be insurmountable.

Though my desire to complete the Umatilla Basin Project is great, I could not allow myself or others to forget the overriding objective of the 1988 Umatilla Basin Project Act. That act states that the decision to adjust the irrigation districts' boundaries "shall be considered as secondary to the purpose of providing water for fishery purposes." While it is understood that the Umatilla Basin Project should not necessarily disadvantage irrigation districts, restoration of the anadromous fish runs must continue to be its predominant mission.

I regret that the parties failed to reach consensus on this most important issue, and I hope that the Oregon Delegation will work together with the affected parties in the 105th Congress to reach consensus on the issues that remain.

RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I have spoken on the Senate floor in a personal tribute to Senator CLAIBORNE PELL of my neighboring State of Rhode Island, and I wish him well in his retirement, but this year we in the U.S. Senate are losing 12 other colleagues, all of whom have left a unique mark on this institution and have served their states and the American people with dignity and integrity. All have been committed to the concerns of their constituents and have fought for issues that have moved this Nation forward and kept us strong, safe, and powerful. We shall miss each of them, and we shall miss their friendship, camaraderie, and counsel.

SENATOR JAMES EXON

I want to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Nebraska, Senator JIM EXON. The institution of the U.S. Senate is the hallmark of American democracy. Few Members with whom I have served have more skillfully represented national concerns and constituent interests during the long and arduous deliberations and debates in committee and on the floor of the U.S. Senate than JIM EXON.

As Senator EXON leaves this body, he leaves a long and distinguished public service record, a legacy of independence, dependability, and a tough, common sense approach to policy as well as politics which will not be forgotten. As ranking minority member of the Budget Committee during the challenging early days of the 104th Congress, Senator EXON, knowing full well the shortcomings of the Republican budget, withstood the early onslaught of positive publicity for the new majority, and tirelessly devoted his efforts to leading the charge in committee not only to point out, line by line, what was wrong, but to convince the American people that he was right.

Senator EXON has been an anchor of reasoned debate and bi-partisanship on defense, transportation, and business

issues as well as on budget issues; and with his characteristic firmness, perseverance, and drive, he has always reflected the best of the pioneer tradition of his beloved Nebraska. With his retirement, we will have lost a skilled and committed colleague who cares about public service and whose career is a symbol of institutional pride and personal responsibility to the common good.

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

I want to pay tribute to the senior Senator from Oregon, MARK HATFIELD, who has been a beacon of bi-partisanship in this Chamber. Senator HATFIELD has always been, above all, a statesman dedicated to the Senate tradition of reasoned debate and responsible bipartisan solutions. In seeking common ground, whether on the budget or on issues of arms control and peace or on issues affecting the day to day lives of his constituents and families across America, Senator HATFIELD has never been afraid to exercise his legendary independence, even if it meant risking the wrath of his party.

Another word that aptly describes the long and distinguished public service career of Senator HATFIELD, is "independence." In every one of his votes he has shown extraordinary integrity, and I have been especially inspired by his work on arms control and his commitment to common sense in national and international affairs.

At a time in this institution when we hear partisan politics in a shrill crescendo, we shall miss his quiet, steady voice of reason and his humanity, for he has been, in many ways, the conscience of the Senate. MARK HATFIELD has left a mark on this place. I am hopeful we all will remember the standard he has set.

SENATOR BILL BRADLEY

I want to pay tribute to Senator Bill BRADLEY of New Jersey whose intellect and passion for ideas tempered by a common sense perspective have made him a calm voice for bipartisanship and logic. Senator BRADLEY has never been bound by the way things have always been done. He has always found a way to break new ground, find a better way, reach higher, and strive harder to help redefine and restructure our response to children in the inner city, to race relations in America, to tax reform and campaign finance reform.

He led the 1986 tax reform bill and led the effort to delink human rights in China from the need to extend most-favored-nation status. I worked with him in that effort and recognized the keen, sharp historical perspective that he brings to human rights, international economics, and international relations.

We have shared a commitment to Campaign Finance Reform and, again, his extraordinary ability to find a new way, try a different idea, and devise a better solution to our common problems has been inspiring as has been his commitment. We have learned to respect his judgment and analysis.

Mr. President, the quality of leadership and service embodied in the life

and career of Senator BRADLEY serves as a model for every young American, and he shall be missed in the 105th Congress.

SENATOR HANK BROWN

I want to pay tribute to the distinguished Senior Senator from Colorado, HANK BROWN with whom it has been a pleasure to serve. When I was chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics, and International Operations and he was the ranking member, we developed an extraordinary working relationship and I welcomed his friendship and his counsel.

Senator BROWN is thoughtful and deeply committed to the truth. He is fearless in his willingness to buck the system and ignore political pressures to do what he believes is right. His commitment and counsel in finding the truth in the BCCI investigation led to legislation that tightened the banking laws and addressed narcotics trafficking.

Mr. President, in my work with Senator HANK BROWN, I do not recall a time when he lost his sense of humor or the twinkle in his eye. His calm forceful commitment to his county, to his constituents, and to this institution will be missed. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with him.

SENATOR SAM NUNN

I want to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Georgia, Senator SAM NUNN. I do not believe there is any Member of the Senate who is more studious and astute. Any American who believes that a strong national defense is a necessity in this changing world, will look to the career of Senator NUNN with respect and admiration. His specific knowledge and keen analysis of defense issues, international relations, and armed services is without equal. When it comes to NATO, his undertaking of the complex historical relationships and potential policy alternatives that have developed during the evolution of our involvement in NATO have made him a world leader and the voice of reasoned debate.

Senator NUNN has led the fight for more efficient uses of defense resources and greater accountability of defense contractors. He has been an invaluable ally in this institution to every American in uniform. He has been a calm, reasonable leader in the defense debate of the post-cold-war era.

Senator NUNN is as thoughtful as he is astute, as committed as he is wise, and as influential as he is fair. We will miss the kind of leadership that Senator NUNN has brought to this institution. We can be sure that debates on the floor of the Senate in the 105th Congress and thereafter will echo his leadership, his resolve, and his commitment. His influence in defense policy—his legacy—will be felt for years to come. I join my colleagues in wishing him well.

SENATOR BILL COHEN

I want to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Maine, Senator BILL

COHEN, a fellow New Englander, and our most renowned author, who has been respected on both sides of the aisle for his intellect and his down-east devotion to his beloved Maine. Senator COHEN's intelligence and his substantive approach to the issues are surpassed only by his extraordinary range of talents.

Senator COHEN is known in this chamber for his devotion to detail and reasoned analysis of the issues, and recently he has expressed his concerns about partisanship and the political atmosphere which has dominated debate on the Senate floor. But his concern has never led to criticism of the process, people, or promise of this institution or of the purpose and function of government. He has always been a positive influence and has sought to make government in general and the Senate in particular responsive, efficient, and accountable. Negativism has not been a part of Senator COHEN's vocabulary.

He is going home to New England, and we know how much he loves his State of Maine, the beauty and the majesty of the rocky coast that reaches out into the Atlantic. As a fellow New Englander, I understand his love for it. His roots are as deep as his commitment to his beliefs and principles, and whatever he chooses to do, we wish him well.

SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

I want to pay tribute to the Senior Senator from Alabama, Senator HOWELL HEFLIN—Judge HEFLIN, or just Judge, as he is known to his colleagues—whose long public service career has shaped the judicial system in this Nation. His temperance, knowledge, experience, and constitutional scholarship have helped preserve the integrity of the word "justice" in our democracy and taught us the lesson of judicial temperament and legislative leadership.

If there is one word that describes Senator HEFLIN it is deliberative. He weighs the issues, individually without concern for party or political expedience. He evaluates, analyzes, reevaluates and makes a decision based on the facts and only the facts. Senator HEFLIN has represented the people of Alabama with grace, charm, intelligence, and integrity. His service and his character represent the best of the U.S. Senate and his leadership and perspective shall be sorely missed when the Judiciary Committee convenes in the 105th Congress.

SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

I want to pay tribute to the Senator from Kansas, NANCY KASSEBAUM, one of this institution's most respected authorities and most effective leaders on Labor and Human Resources issues. She is an extraordinary person whose quiet commitment and personal integrity have marked a public service career that has lived up to her family name and to the expectations of the people of her beloved Kansas.

Her bipartisan leadership culminated this year in passage of the Kennedy-

Kassebaum health insurance bill that protects health benefits for million of working Americans and relieves them of the fear of losing their health insurance if they lose their jobs or have a preexisting condition. She was instrumental in giving America this landmark health reform legislation when many said it could not be done this year. I have also known Senator KASSEBAUM to be deeply committed to foreign affairs and especially to concerns of African nations.

Her name has become synonymous with education, public health, labor, and employment policies, but her devotion is to her family and to Kansas. The Senate will miss her, but the people of Kansas will have her home.

SENATOR BENNETT JOHNSTON

I want to pay tribute to Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON of Louisiana who has served for 24 years on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has been either the chairman or the ranking member of that committee for 16 of those 24 years and every year he has left his mark on this Nation's policies on the preservation and development of natural resources.

His legislative skills and his knowledge of energy and natural resource issues are extraordinary and have led to the development of policies and programs that have had a deep and lasting impact on our Nation.

He has served the people of Louisiana faithfully, fairly, and with diligence, and his legislative skills, leadership, and knowledge will be missed in the 105th Congress.

SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

I want to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from Wyoming, Senator ALAN SIMPSON, who has always brought his unique perspective to bear on the critical issues of our time. His carefully reasoned and focused approach often has helped this Chamber see the essential center of issues with which he has been associated during his years on the Judiciary and Finance Committees.

I have worked with Senator SIMPSON on camping finance reform and the candor, humor, and skill with which he approached the issue was refreshing, insightful, and direct. He is the kind of Senator whom the American people seek and re-elect because he reflects their interests and their ability to weed through the details to find the essential truth.

Senator SIMPSON has served the interests of the people of Wyoming and of the West with profound skill and style and his personal commitment to immigration policy will mark a long and distinguished public service career. The Senate has been a better place because of the leadership of Senator ALAN SIMPSON.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON

I want to pay tribute to my colleague from Illinois, Senator PAUL SIMON. We shall long remember the Senator who wore a bow tie every day. He brought to this Chamber a dignity and scholarship that has lifted the level of debate

and preserved the grand traditions of this institution.

Senator SIMON has been a national leader on literacy and on the power of the written word. His career and his life are a tribute to knowledge, learning, and the pursuit of excellence. Senator SIMON has walked these corridors with a quiet dignity and brought to them a sense of decency that we shall long remember.

Senator SIMON is truly a skilled teacher. He has taught us, in the U.S. Senate, the lesson of civility and he has taught us and every American who has heard his message that it is in the best interest of this Nation to put a premium on intellect again. He has done so in his actions, words, and deeds, and he shall be missed not only for his bow ties but for his honorable public service, his powerful independence, and his skill as a leader, a debater, and a quintessential U.S. Senator.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

I want to pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from Arkansas, Senator DAVID PRYOR who is a skilled and effective legislator with a gentlemanly southern charm and a modesty that belies his extraordinary skills and accomplishments.

Of his many accomplishments, not the least of which is his agricultural record for the people of Arkansas, Senator PRYOR became an outspoken critic of the prices that pharmaceutical companies charge for prescription drugs and his leadership on the issue brought national attention to the problem and gave hope to millions of elderly Americans who could not afford their medication.

Senator PRYOR's record of leadership in public service is marked by compassion and civility. I wish him all the best as he leaves the Senate and takes on new challenges.

MEN OF COLOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, at this time, I would like to take a moment to recognize, encourage, and pay tribute to a comprehensive, new health initiative called "The Men of Color Health Initiative" which was started at the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center in my State of Massachusetts in 1993. This outstanding health service has combined years of careful and thoughtful research with a grassroots outreach program that brings to light important health care issues such as access to health care for people of African, Asian and Latino descent throughout Massachusetts and the United States.

The Men of Color Health Initiative was inspired by the need to address, in a comprehensive and culturally appropriate manner, the many health and social issues facing men of color today. In 1993, representatives of this program embarked upon a statewide study to examine why ethnic minority men did

not routinely have access to the health system. This project was designed to educate and activate men of African, Asian and Latino descent with regard to healthy lifestyles and appropriate medical care. The key to this process was the need to understand the health care needs, experiences, issues and perceptions of these highly exposed and often neglected groups.

This focused health care initiative takes a large step forward in attempting to help men of color become more aware of the health care options they have today. Many of the men interviewed before the inception of this program indicated that hospital emergency rooms were insensitive, inefficient, nonresponsive, and biased against ethnic minority men. There was an underlying distrust in and cynicism about the health system today. Many stated that language barriers keep them away from the options that they do have.

This program has gone the extra mile to see that the necessary surveys are conducted and discussion groups are available for male health system users and community-based providers to elicit information about viable methods to reach the population at risk. I applaud the efforts of this superb program and I wish it much success in the future. This thoughtful and successful program should be a model for others across the United States.

THE FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on May 23, I introduced a bill—S. 1797—to implement the recommendation of the National Performance Review that we should "require [Federal Prison Industries] to compete commercially for Federal agencies' business" instead of having a legally protected monopoly. My bill would ensure that the taxpayers get the best possible value for their Federal procurement dollars. If a Federal agency could get a better product at a lower price from the private sector, it would be permitted to do so—and the taxpayers would get the savings.

Mr. President, many in both government and industry believe that FPI products are frequently overpriced, inferior in quality, or both. For example, I understand that the Veterans Administration has sought repeal of FPI's mandatory preference on several occasions, on the grounds that FPI pricing for textiles, furniture, and other products are routinely higher than identical items purchased from commercial sources. Most recently, VA officials estimated that the repeal of the preference would save \$18 million over a 4-year period for their agency alone, making that money available for veterans services.

Similarly, the Deputy Commander of the Defense Logistics Agency, wrote in a May 3, 1996, letter to Members of the

House that FPI has had a 42-percent delinquency rate in its clothing and textile deliveries, compared to a 6-percent rate for commercial industry. For this record of poor performance, FPI has charged prices that were an average of 13 percent higher than commercial prices.

On July 30, 1996, the master chief petty officer of the Navy testified before the House National Security Committee that the FPI monopoly on Government furniture contracts has undermined the Navy's ability to improve living conditions for its sailors. Master Chief Petty Officer John Hagan stated, and I quote:

In order to efficiently use our scarce resources, we need congressional assistance in changing the Title 18 statute that requires all the Services to obtain a waiver for each and every furniture order not placed with the Federal Prison Industry/UNICOR. *** Speaking frankly, the FPI/UNICOR product is inferior, costs more, and takes longer to procure. UNICOR has, in my opinion, exploited their special status instead of making changes which would make them more efficient and competitive. The Navy and other Services need your support to change the law and have FPI compete with GSA furniture manufacturers. Without this change, we will not be serving Sailors or taxpayers in the most effective and efficient way.

Mr. President, S. 1797 is supported by the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Business and Industrial Furniture Manufacturers' Association, the American Apparel Manufacturers' Association, the Industrial Fabrics Association International, and the Competition in Contracting Act Coalition. It is also supported by hundreds of small businesses from Michigan and around the country that have seen FPI take jobs away from their businesses and give them to persons convicted of crimes and serving time in prison, and are justifiably outraged.

We all want to do what we can to ensure that we make constructive work available for Federal prisoners, but the way we are doing it is wrong. As one small businessman in the furniture industry put it in testimony at a House hearing earlier this year:

Is it justice that Federal Prison Industries would step in and take business away from a disabled Vietnam veteran who was twice wounded fighting for our country and give that work to criminals who have trampled on honest citizens' rights, therefore effectively destroying and bankrupting that hero's business which the Veteran's Administration suggested he enter?

Mr. President, my bill would not restrict FPI's business. It would not require FPI to close any of its facilities. It would not force FPI to eliminate any jobs for Federal prisoners. It would not undermine FPI's ability to ensure that inmates are productively occupied. It would simply require FPI to compete for Federal contracts on the same terms as all other Federal contractors. That is simple justice to the hard-working citizens in the private sector,